

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a porous medium comprising:
 - applying pressure to a first portion of a medium precursor including inorganic particles;
 - separately applying pressure to a second portion of the medium precursor; and
 - sinter bonding the inorganic particles together to form a porous medium having a porosity of about 50% or more.

Claims 2-13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising depositing the medium precursor as a slurry into a mold cavity, wherein applying pressure to a first portion of the medium precursor includes pressing a first die against a first portion of the slurry in the mold cavity, and wherein separately applying pressure to a second portion of the medium precursor includes pressing a second die against a second portion of the slurry in the mold cavity, the first and second dies respectively imparting predetermined characteristics to respective portions of the porous medium.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the first and second dies press the first and second portions at the same compression ratio.

16. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein the first and second dies press the first and second portions to substantially the same particle density.